



UNITED STATES

National Library of Medicine

*Review of PDA Applications  
in  
Toxicology and Environmental Health:*



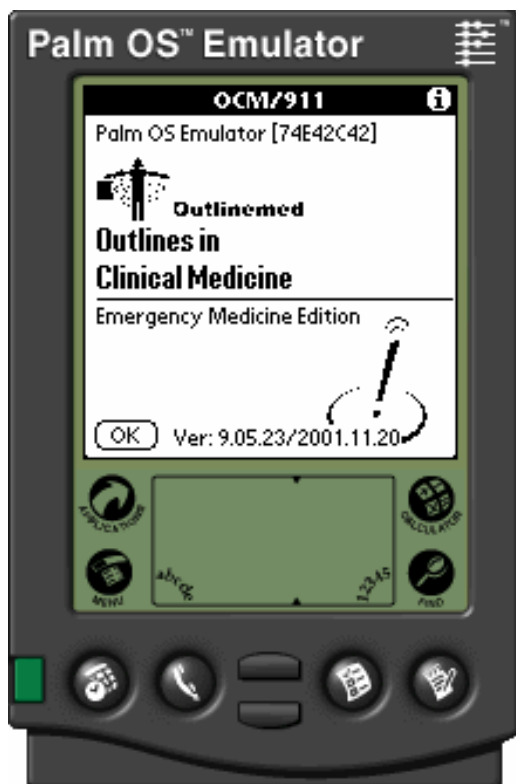
*OCM/911*



Specialized Information Services Division  
National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

# OCM/911

(Reviewed 10/2002)



## General Information

For general comments regarding the *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health*, please see the [Overview](#). Here we review the main technical and content features of the Palm OS version of *OCM/911* (9.05.23) based upon the downloadable free-ware. *OCM/911* is powered by Skyscape Inc. and is designed to provide information related to medical emergencies. The topics included in this application are taken from the more comprehensive *Outlines in Clinical Medicine* (OCM) database published by OutlineMed Inc., which provides access to a wide range of topics in internal medicine in summary (outline) format. *OCM* is updated periodically with information from major medical journals and other sources and incorporates medical information into succinct, comprehensive topic summaries.

## Intended Users

- Clinicians / Researchers
- Physicians / Nurses
- Allied Health Personnel
- Medical Students
- Medical Librarians
- Healthcare Consultants
- Biotechnology / Pharmaceutical Personnel

## Authorship/Data Source

The *Outlines in Clinical Medicine* database, on which the *OCM/911* application is based, is authored and maintained by Michael G. Kauffman, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins and Harvard medical schools). All of the sections are reviewed on an ongoing basis by editors who are specialists in their fields. *OCM* is updated periodically with information from major medical journals (*American Journal of Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Annual Review of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Lancet*, *New*

*England Journal of Medicine, The Medical Letter*) and from seminars, review articles, patient care, drug development conferences, and teaching experience.

## **Contents**

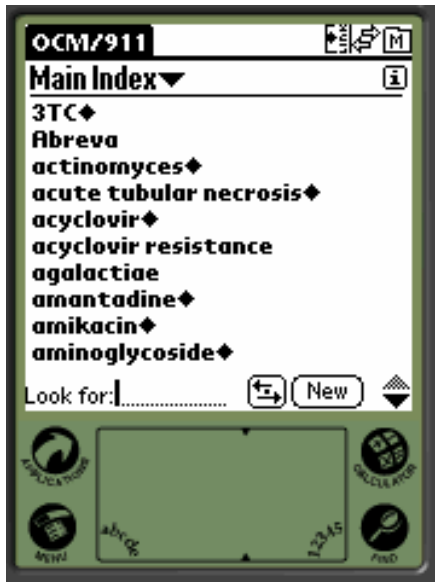
The *OCM* database consists of over 850 separate succinct summaries (outlines) of topics encountered in general internal medicine, internal medicine subspecialties, emergency medicine, and family practice. These outlines are organized into topic cards, which are hyperlinked to each other, an index, and the table of contents. Each topic card is intended to allow a clinician to care for a patient with a specific condition or symptom.

Medical emergency topics included in the *OCM/911* demo version are:

- ◆ Aminoglycosides
- ◆ Anthrax
- ◆ Antiviral Agents
- ◆ Bacterial Pathogens
- ◆ Food-Borne Illness
- ◆ Influenza
- ◆ Lymphadenitis
- ◆ Quinolones
- ◆ Tetracyclines
- ◆ Varicella Zoster Virus
- ◆ Viral Hemorrhagic Fever



◀ *As shown in the screen shot to the left, the information provided by OCM/911 is accessible via three separate indexes (Main Index, Medications Index, Therapeutic Category Index) and a Table of Contents.*

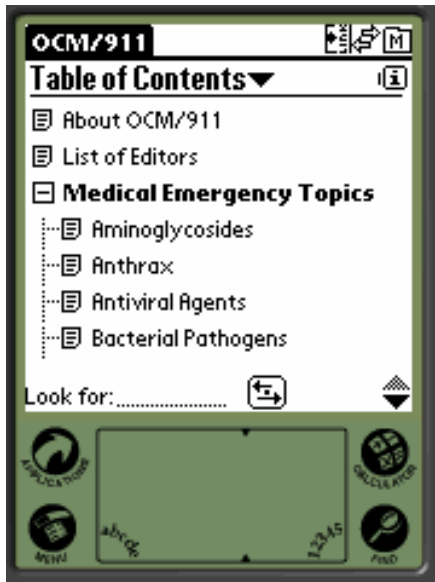


◀ The screen shot to the left shows the initial portion of the Main Index, which lists all the topics on which the OCM/911 product provides information. This index includes all the major subjects (diseases, pathogens, medications, therapeutic categories, etc.) covered by the application.

▶ The screen shot to the right displays a section of the Medications Index, which lists the drugs on which one can find pertinent information. Note that in some cases the index lists both recommended drug names and synonyms (e.g., ciprofloxacin and Cipro).

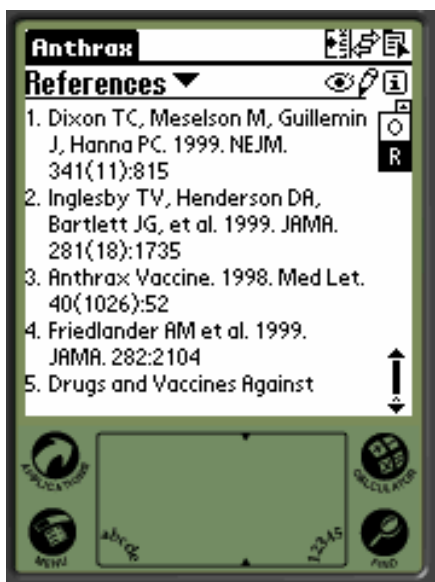
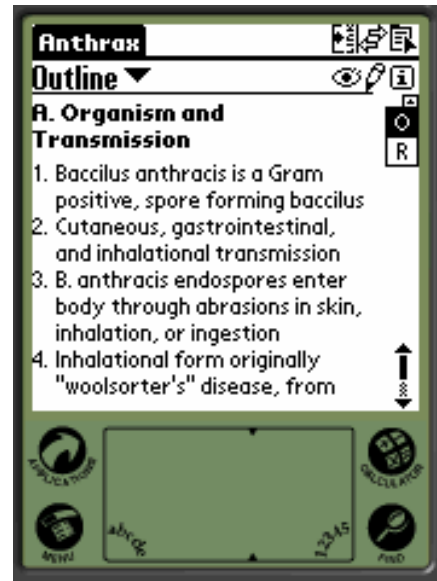


◀ A portion of the Therapeutic Category Index is shown in the screen shot to the left. Note that different versions of the same components appear in the list.



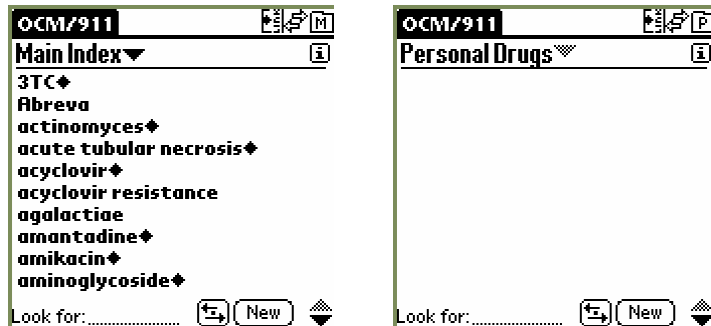
◀ The Table of Contents shown in the screen shot to the left lists, amongst other sections, the Medical Emergency Topics section, which includes the above-listed topics covered by the OCM/911 application (demo version).

► As an example, the initial portion of the Outline (summary information) for Anthrax is displayed in the screen shot to the right. In this case, the Outline includes subtopics such as Organism and Transmission (A), Virulence Factors (B), Cutaneous Anthrax (C), Systemic Anthrax (D), Diagnosis (E), Treatment (F), and Vaccination (G).




◀ The screen shot to the left displays a portion of the References section for the Anthrax topic. Note that references from three of the aforementioned medical journal publications appear in the partial list: Journal of the American Medical Association, New England Journal of Medicine, and The Medical Letter.

## Navigation

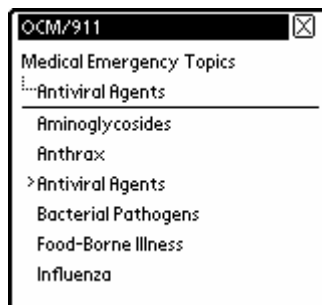


The **M** and **P** buttons found in the top right portion of the screen (see screen shots above) allow the user to toggle between the Main Index and Personal Drugs options, respectively. As mentioned previously, the Main Index provides access to the major subjects covered by *OCM/911*, and the Personal Drugs option provides the means to add personal drug information.

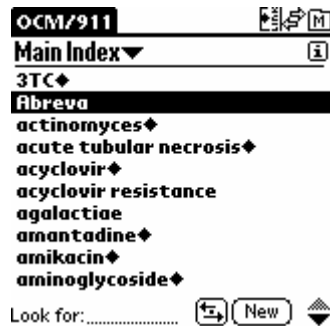
The  button, which is also located in the top right portion of the screen and is functional only in the information view, allows the user to:


- link to other Skyscape products
- visit recently viewed topics
- see the index terms
- access annotations
- access a “See Also” list

The user may also tap on a main section name to see a pop-up list of the subsections it includes:

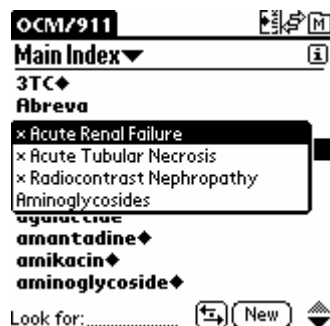



## The Main Index View

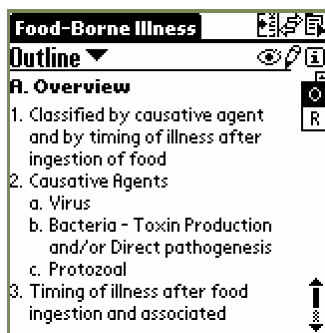






The Main Index (see screen shot above) allows the user to look for the topic of his/her interest and access it by tapping on it. To scroll up and down the list of topics, he/she can use the ◆ arrows or the physical scroll buttons. Another way of accessing the information is by typing the first few characters of a sought topic name on the dotted line next to “Look for:”, which will cause the list to scroll to the closest match for that topic name. On the other hand, typing a string of characters on the dotted line and then tapping on the  button, will cause the list to scroll to each term containing the input string of characters; if no match is found, there will be a “beep” sound.

If a topic in the Main Index is followed by the ◆ symbol, this means that there are two or more separate sections dealing with that topic. The screen shot below shows what a user would see if he/she tapped on a specific topic marked with the ◆ symbol (in this case, acute tubular necrosis): a pop-up screen would display the various sections within the application that address that topic. If a topic is not addressed by multiple sections, the user will be taken directly to the one and only section discussing the topic.




As shown in the next screen shot (see below), each section provides an  (Overview/References) button on the right-hand side of the screen. Tapping on the top half (O) of this button will take the user to the Overview portion of the section (from the References portion), while tapping on the bottom half (R) of the button will allow the user to access the References portion of the section (from the Overview portion).



From a specific section (topic), the user may return to the Main Index by tapping on the  icon. The  icon allows the user to jump to the next or previous topic. The  icon allows the user to add personal notes to the selected topic. Finally, the  icon allows the user to add a new drug; the view will automatically switch to the Personal Drugs mode.

### The Personal Drugs View




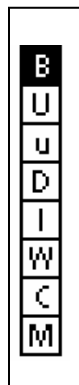
Topic Name


**Topic Name:** .....

OK
Cancel

The Personal Drugs mode allows the user to add information regarding personal drugs to the application. Once the Personal Drugs view has been opened, the steps are as follow:

- Tap the  icon, which displays the Topic Name pop-up screen (shown above)
- Type in the drug name on the dotted line following “Topic Name:”
- Then tap on the buttons shown below to add specific information on the drug:



- Brand Names
- Use
- Usual Dosage
- Dosage Forms
- Drug Interactions
- Warning/Precaution
- Contraindications
- Mechanism of Action



More drug information sections may be added by tapping the ▼ symbol. The additional sections are:

- Pregnancy Request Fact...
- Canadian/Mexican Brand...
- Therapeutic Category
- Overdosage
- Restrictions
- Precautions
- Test Interactions

The ☒ icon allows the user to delete the personal drug information completely, while the ✎ icon allows the user to add personal notes to the selected term.

### *Requirements*

- ❖ Palm OS (any version)
- ❖ 404 KB of RAM

### *Application Type/Price*

- ❖ Freeware

### *Availability*

OCM/911 is available from commercial PDA software distributors.

### *Useful Web Links*

For more information on OutlineMed Inc., go to [www.outlinemed.com](http://www.outlinemed.com). For more information on Skyscape Inc., go to [www.skyscape.com](http://www.skyscape.com).

# **Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health**

## **Overview**

Handheld computer devices known as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are increasingly being used in the fields of toxicology and environmental health. Moreover, software applications covering specialized subject matter in these fields are increasingly being made available to PDA users.

In an effort to provide information on the main technical and content features of selected applications, the National Library of Medicine's Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) has undertaken an ongoing review of them. Typically, individual reports in the review series are based on free, downloadable demos.

Each report typically covers the following topics: General Information, Intended Users, Authorship/Data Source, Contents, Navigation, Requirements, Application Type/Price, Availability, Useful Web Links, and Updates.



**Note:** The *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health* is not intended to be all comprehensive, but rather a review of selected applications. SIS staff welcomes any comments on completed reviews or suggestions for additional reviews of applications not currently included, as long as they fall within the scope of toxicology and environmental health. You may contact us via email at [tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov) with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

It is not the intention of SIS staff to recommend, or not recommend, any particular PDA device(s) or software application(s), but rather to provide an objective and descriptive review of the main technical and content features of selected applications based on their downloadable demo versions.

[<BACK>](#)